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ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-07 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 DIWY-01 PA-01 CU-02 OES-06 L-03 TRSE-00 /056 W

----- 040335

R 021606Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3520

INFO USMISSION USUN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

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PARIS FOR UNESCO ROME FOR FODAG VIENNA FOR IAEA AND UNIDO

MONTREAL FOR ICAO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID UNDP GR

SUBJ: CERP 0008: EVALUATION OF UN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

REF A. 75 ATHENS 2809 B. STATE 72386 C. ATHENS A-47

D. 75 ATHENS A-210 E. 75 ATHENS 4394 F. ATHENS 2533

SUMMARY: LOCAL PROGRAM HAS FORTUNATELY NOT SUFFERED
SERIOUS DISRUPTION DUE TO RECENT GLOBAL UNDP FINANCING
PROBLEMS. MAINTENANCE OF A MODEST RESERVE FUND PROVIDED
WHEREWITHAL TO CUSHION THE EFFECTS OF BOTH INFLATION AND
CURRENT SCARCITY OF FUNDS IN NEW YORK. PRACTICALLY ALL
OF UNDP'S SMALL BUDGET FOR GREECE (\$7.5 MILLION FOR 1972-
1976) HAD LONG SINCE BEEN ALLOCATED, SO NO DRAMATIC
CHANGES IN PROGRAM WERE POSSIBLE IN 1975 OR 1976. PRIMARY
FOCUS AT THE PRESENT TIME IS ON THE 1977-1981 PROGRAM,
WHICH WILL PROBABLY NOT BE READY EVEN IN DRAFT FORM
UNTIL LATE THIS YEAR. LOCAL UNDP OFFICIALS EXPECT

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INDICATIVE PLANNING FIGURE OF \$7.5 MILLION FOR NEW PRO-

GRAM, NOMINALLY THE SAME AS FOR 1972-1976, BUT ON-SIDERABLY LESS IN REAL TERMS. REGIONAL UNDERTAKINGS, E.G., STUDIES ON DANUBE-THESSALONIKI WATERWAY, BALKAN POWER GRID, AND GREECE TO WEST GERMANY HIGHWAY, SEEM LIKELY TO ACQUIRE INCREASED IMPORTANCE. A PROGRAM OF SPICAL RELEVANCE TO GREECE'S FUTURE--A \$150-200,000 GRANT TO PROVIDE EXPERT ASSISTANCE ON PROBLEMS ARISING FROM GREEK RELATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY--HAS BEEN PROPOSED AND AWAITS GOG APPROVAL. IN OCTOBER 1975 HANS W. KAMBERT ARRIVED TO SERVE AS RESREP AND ACTING REPRESENTATIVE OF MOST EXECUTING AGENCIES IN GREECE. SUMMARY OF EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE TO GREECE UNDER UNDP AND OTHER PROGRAMS IN 1975, PROVIDED BY LOCAL UNDP OFFICE, HAS BEEN AIRPOUCHED UNDER COVER OF REF C. END SUMMARY.

1. ROLE OF UNDP IN UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM. LOCAL UNDP OFFICE HAS PERFORMED WELL OVER RECENT YEARS, WHICH HAVE SEEN AN AMPLE SHARE OF POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. FORMER RESREP SYMONDS PROVED AN EFFECTIVE COORDINATOR OF UNDP AND OTHER UN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. IT IS TOO EARLY TO JUDGE THE PERFORMANCE OF HIS SUCCESSOR BUT WE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE AT THIS POINT THAT HE WILL BE LESS EFFECTIVE. COOPERATION AND COORDINATION WITH SISTER UN AGENCIES SEEM GOOD AND NO DUPLICATION OF EFFORT APPARENT. SEE REF A, PARA 2, FOR FURTHER BACKGROUND ON ROLE OF UNDP RESREP IN ATHENS.

2. COORDINATION OF ALL EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE - SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN IBRD AND EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK (EIB) FINANCING MAY EVENTUALLY MAKE COORDINATION OF EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE MORE DIFFICULT, AND WILL CERTAINLY MEAN THAT UNDP IS GREATLY OVERSHADOWED IN TERMS OF IMPORTANCE TO DEVELOPMENT EFFORT. IBRD SIGNED THREE NEW LOANS TO GREECE IN 1975 TALLING \$110 MILLION AND A \$30 MILLION LOAN HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED SO FAR THIS YEAR (SEE REF D,E AND F). THE EIB HAS APPROVED THE DISBURSEMENT OF THE "UNFROZEN" \$57 MILLION FROM THE FIRST GREEK-EC FINANCIAL PROTOCOL, AND EC IS PRESENTLY CONSIDERING A MUCH LARGER SECOND PROTOCOL. UNDP OFFICIALS DO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NOT SEEM TO ANTICIPATE MAJOR COORDINATION PROBLEMS IN IMMEDIATE FUTURE, AND CERTAINLY RESREP AND HIS STAFF HAVE PLAYED AN ACTIVE AND SUCCESSFUL ROLE IN PROMOTING COORDINATION OF EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE IN THE PAST. THE ONE SUB-PAR AREA HAS BEEN WITH THE OECD (WHOSE PRESENCE IS VERY LIMITED) AND UNDP OFFICIALS BELIEVE THAT THIS DEFICIENCY CAN BE RESOLVED. SEE REF A, PARAS 2 AND 3 FOR ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND ON COORDINATION OF ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.

3. FINANCIAL RESTRAINTS - COMBINATION OF SMALL SIZE OF PROGRAM AND PRUDENT FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT ENABLED LOCAL UNDP TO ESCAPE SERIOUS DISRUPTION TO ITS ACTIVITIES DUE TO RECENT AUSTERITY MEASURES. CUTBACK IN FUNDS FOR GREECE HAS LONG BEEN EXPECTED DUE TO RELATIVELY HIGH PER CAPITA GNP. WORLD-WIDE BUDGETARY CONSTRAINTS HAVE NOT, THEREFORE, CAUSED A MAJOR RETHINKING OF SCOPE OF PROGRAM ENVISIONED FOR 1977-1981.

4. COUNTRY PROGRAMMING - GIVEN THE NEGLIGIBLE UN-COMMITTED RESERVES REMAINING FOR THE 1972-1976 PROGRAM NO FORMAL OVERALL COUNTRY REVIEW HAS BEEN CONDUCTED, BUT REGULAR APPRAISALS OF INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS HAVE CONTINUED. UNDP REPS BELIEVE THAT PROGRAM REVIEW SYSTEM HAS WORKED REASONABLY WELL IN MINIMIZING MARGINAL PROGRAMS, AND MAXIMIZING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE LIMITED RESOURCES AVAILABLE. THE MAIN FOCUS AT PRESENT IS ON THE NEW 1977-1981 PROGRAM, WHICH WAS TO BE READY IN MAY 1976. GOG AUTHORITIES NOW INDICATE THAT END OF YEAR IS A MORE REALISTIC DEADLINE, A DELAY WHICH LOCAL UNDP OFFICIALS FIND DISAPPOINTING.

5. PROJECT EVALUATION AND IMPLEMENTATION - COMMENTS IN REF A, PARAS 7 AND 8 REMAIN VALID. UNDP OFFICERS INDICATE THAT GOG RESPONSIVENESS HAS IMPROVED WITH INCREASED CONTINUITY IN UPPER RANKS OF GOVERNMENT AFTER THE INSTABILITY OF 1973 AND 1974. THERE IS AMPLE ROOM FOR FURTHER IMPROVEMENT IN TIMELINESS OF PROVISION OF COUNTER-PART FUNDS AND PERSONNEL.

6. APPRAISAL OF PROPOSED PROJECTS - EMBASSY REPS HAVE LONG MAINTAINED CLOSE CONTACT WITH UNDP, AND HAVE FRE-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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QUENTLY DISCUSSED ON INFORMAL BASIS VARIOUS ASPECTS OF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS WITH RESREP, GOG, AND VISITING CONSULTANTS.

7. WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT - LOCAL UNDP HAS CONTINUED TO PROMOTE, WITHIN THE LIMITS POSSIBLE, INCREASED EQUALITY FOR WOMEN AND THEIR PARTICIPATION IN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS IN DECISION MAKING CAPACITIES. GIVEN THE VERY LIMITED SIZE OF THE UNDP PROGRAM IN GREECE, IT IS IMPROBABLE THAT ITS EFFORTS IN THIS REGARD HAVE HAD MUCH IMPACT ON LOCAL SOCIETY. HOWEVER, A BROAD ARRAY OF FORCES ARE AT WORK HERE TOWARDS THE ACHIEVEMENT OF FULL EQUALITY FOR WOMEN. STEARNS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CERP 0008, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ATHENS03180
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760126-0127
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197604106/aaaadmpn.tel
Line Count: 167
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 ATHENS 2809, 76 STATE 72386, 76 ATHENS A-47
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 MAR 2004 by ellisoob>; APPROVED <27 JUL 2004 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CERP 0008: EVALUATION OF UN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
TAGS: EAID, ECRP, GR, UNDP, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006